

27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Geneva
31 October – 6 November 1999



A guide for International Conference delegates

Registration:

International Conference Centre, Geneva (CICG)
Rue de Varembeé 15, 1202 Geneva

From Wednesday 20
until Friday 29 October 1999, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday 30 October 1999, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sunday 31 October 1999, from 2 p.m. onwards
Monday 1 November 1999, from 8 a.m. onwards

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Message from the Chairman of the Standing Commission

Dear Delegates,

In the name of the members of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, I should like to welcome you most cordially to the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent here in Geneva. We are thankful to the Swiss Government and to the city of Geneva for their generous and constant support in the realisation of this Conference.

Geneva is the city which proudly bears the name of the Conventions which are the international cornerstone of humanitarian work. This year we are commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, which, together with our Movement's Fundamental Principles, are the basis in the day to day work to selflessly help those in need. Humanitarian action has proved its worth to millions from all walks of life who have seen for themselves its unmeasurable contributions.

This conference is our opportunity to immerse ourselves in the needs of those who depend on that action. It is up to us to ensure that humanitarian work is better understood, and that the tools we have to assist those in need are appropriate. Our challenge in the week ahead is to find solutions for people who count on our help.

This is a conference about people, not paper. I wish you success in making it fruitful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margriet', written over a horizontal line.

Princess Margriet of the Netherlands
Chairman of the Standing Commission

Switzerland ...

Switzerland, situated in the heart of Europe, is a small primarily mountainous country, measuring at the most 355 km. wide. Broadly speaking, one quarter of the land is uncultivated, one quarter mountain pasture land, one quarter forest and one quarter under cultivation. As Switzerland is in the centre of Europe, it is exposed to the major, quite varied climates on the continent. Owing to its relief it has one of the heaviest rainfalls in Europe, linking it to four major rivers: the Rhine, the Rhone, the Po (via the Ticino) and the Danube (via the Inn). There are 1484 lakes and 140 glaciers in Switzerland. About one hundred peaks are close to or exceed 4,000 metres; the lowest altitude in the country is 193 metres. It has no direct access to the sea and is bordered by five countries: Germany, Liechtenstein, Austria, Italy and France. Some thirty passes link the North to the South, three of which can be crossed by car in a tunnel.

Switzerland's population of seven million people makes it one of the most densely inhabited countries in the world. Only 5.5% of the population is employed in agriculture and 68% live in towns. It has always been open to exchange as a result of its geo-political situation and its inability to feed its population on its poor soil. Following many centuries during which the Swiss left their homeland, about one hundred years ago industrialization led to a regular population growth. Recent population growth is however primarily due to immigration, attracted by sharp economic growth in the last decades. At present 19% of the population established in Switzerland is foreign. But a city like Geneva, during the day time, has a majority of foreigners with the persons who cross the border daily to work. Four languages are spoken, three of which have close ties with more powerful neighbouring cultures: German (63.5% of the population), French (19%), Italian (7.5%), Romansch (1%), and others (9%).

Switzerland has obviously been affected by events on the continent, however tempered by its relief. According to tradition, the mountain populations in central Switzerland swore mutual assistance on 1 August 1291, and thus created the Helvetian Confederation, without knowing it! Only in 1848, following the country's last civil war, was the Swiss Federal State founded. The constitution was, already at that time, accepted by popular vote. That State, today comprising 26 sovereign cantons, was endowed with a federal structure which gave the cantons a great deal of freedom and autonomy and the ability to take political decisions in administrative matters. Each canton has its own constitution and laws, and the Confederation, in many domains, confines itself to passing



Cervin

Photo OTG

laws and ensuring the cantons follow through. They freely organize their school system — for example, the eight universities in the country are cantonal (only the two schools of technology are run by the Confederation) — and their social institutions. They levy their own taxes and ensure the good functioning of their communes (3061 in Switzerland) which also enjoy a good deal of autonomy. Democracy plays the most direct and active role here. At the federal level, legislative power falls to the Federal Assembly, composed of two chambers: the National Council which represents the people (200 deputies elected by a proportional system) and the Council of States (two representatives per canton). The Federal Council exercises the executive power. It is elected every four years by the Federal Assembly. The Federal Council, comprising seven members, is a college that takes all its decisions collectively. The president of the Confederation is appointed for one year, on a rotation system. The Swiss people not only elect their delegates to Parliament; they can also take a stand on legislative and constitutional proposals. They furthermore have the rights of initiative and referendum. Clear common denominators of the Swiss people are hard to come by as diversity is the key. Politics is primarily local and cantonal. But both at the local and federal levels, the citizens are losing interest in political life and voting less and less. The reasons why at times more than 70% of them do not vote are not clear and no-one has found an effective remedy.

Following the Reformation, serious internal religious and political discord for a long time prevented any common foreign policy from evolving. Switzerland's neutrality may have begun here. That neutrality was formally recognized internationally in 1815. Ever since it has been the most important key to Swiss foreign policy. As a result Switzerland has refused commitments and alliances, such as NATO, which might draw it into conflicts. It has tried not just to benefit from that neutrality, but to have it serve other nations. It has always offered its good offices. It in addition became the headquarters of many international organizations which settled primarily in Geneva and the venue of very many international meetings and conferences. In 1986 the Swiss people decided not to join the UN. This decision in no way called into question the Swiss policy of commitment to international co-operation, in particular with the United Nations specialized agencies. The dynamic integration of Europe is at present confronting Switzerland with difficult decisions. Whether Switzerland should join the European Union has become a major internal and external political issue. Following the Swiss people's refusal to join the European Economic Space in 1992, the Federal Council did not withdraw its application to the EU, but has stressed the development of bilateral relations with it. Switzerland is taking the difficult path of going it alone.

Switzerland has none of the traditional raw materials which give rise to industrial development in other countries. It does however have a highly qualified labour force with sound technological knowledge, beneficial to the very efficient secondary and tertiary sectors. More than half of the workers are employed in the service sector. More than any other Western country, Switzerland depends on abroad for the development of its economy, explaining its attachment to the principles of free trade, its low customs duties and the almost complete lack of import restrictions. After the second world war the development of its economy benefited from factories unharmed during the hostilities. This growth however heavily relied on foreign labour which subsequently had to be controlled by law and left the doors open to inflation which had to be reined in. Growth took a beating and the labour force felt the full effects (unemployment rate over 4%).

The Swiss machinery, electricity and metals industry represent the largest share of the national economy (45% of all exports). The chemical and pharmaceutical industry, watchmaking and textiles are also flagships of the country's economy. The energy required by Switzerland comes primarily from imported petrol (63% of consumption) whereas hydraulic energy provides 62% of needs for

electricity. Services (banks, insurance, reinsurance and tourism) have benefited from the political and economic stability over the past fifty years. Swiss bank secrecy, which is not at all absolute and can be raised if there is a law case, has admittedly drawn the attention of foreigners looking for sure investments. The Swiss inclination to save, strong ties with abroad, the country's monetary stability, a long experience with financial operations and an exceptionally dense banking network no doubt were far more decisive in the success of the banking sector. In view of its geographical situation, Switzerland has always welcomed, comforted and guided travelers, both merchants and pilgrims, on the mountain paths. Tourism has organized that tradition of hospitality and transformed it into an economic success, becoming one of the biggest employers in the country. It must now seek a new balance between this treasure, the quality of the environment and its continued development.

Switzerland also plays the role of cultural hub. Many foreign artists settle down here to create whereas Swiss artists, cramped by the size of their country, often feel the need to leave it in order to give free reign to their talent. The smallness of the land however hides a flourishing cultural diversity which has always prevented a centralized cultural policy. Communes are culturally very active. Some of them, like the city of Zurich, annually spend almost as much as the Confederation.

(Source: "La Suisse", Ed. Kümmerly and Frey, 1995).

... and Geneva

Between the Cathedral and the Fountain Geneva open to the world

The main roads of antiquity linking East to West and North to South crossed here in Geneva, a little independent town keeping guard over its hill. Since antiquity, Geneva has been a cross-roads owing to its geographical situation on the banks of the Rhone, a river plied by the major civilisations, and its strategic situation between the Alps and the Jura, between the Holy Roman Empire and Celtic Gaul. Geneva never chose, but enriched its culture by taking the best of what was offered.

Rome, its distant but tolerant master, fell apart, and the barbarian invasion swept across Europe. Geneva was no exception but managed to save its image and its spirit. The fire was not extin-



Cathedral

Photo Frank Auberson

guished, but carefully covered with ashes. With the return of favourable conditions, a flame would burst forth from the hidden embers.

Civilisation slowly put down new roots and States took shape. A powerful neighbour, the House of Savoy, annexed Geneva which began its silent, tenacious, daily struggle against this undesired "occupier". As the former barbarians vanished or settled down, merchants, poets, tourists and vagabonds resumed their long journeys, and with them ideas again flourished.

The Reformation against the papacy was one of those ideas Geneva adopted. From a more local point of view, it opposed the House of Savoy, the bishop it imposed and the freedoms denied. In 1536 Geneva chose a new faith, found allies in Switzerland and became a small independent republic.

The path to independence was not easy. The House of Savoy awaited the appropriate moment to take the city back; the economic blockade led to poverty. These difficulties engendered ideas: Geneva developed the art of diplomacy and learned how to create friends. The small city of ten thousand inhabitants bustled with life. Luxury books were printed for the entire Europe; fire arms were manufactured and sold... even to the Savoyards. Rich died cloth, printed calico, then became the speciality, followed by watchmaking which employed four fifths of the inhabitants. Banking developed, imbued with the Calvinist virtues.

Savoy tried to reconquer Geneva for the last time during the night of 11-12 December 1602, known as the Escalade.

Geneva had finally won its right to be itself, and assumed it. It was not always easy. Its reputation of being Protestant Rome made it a magnet for everyone persecuted for his faith. These people often had a trade or knowledge which enriched the small Republic both spiritually and materially. But they came in large numbers. Stories had to be added to homes and rooms built in the courtyards and gardens to house them, for Geneva was strictly confined by its fortifications.

Europe was taking shape. When the French Revolution broke out, Geneva was caught up in it. France occupied the small Republic and made it the principal town of the Department of Leman. Geneva celebrated Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo as a victory, and hope arose of a return to freedom, with the help of the Allies. The Austrian army pacifically besieged the city, long enough to chase the French army. The old Genevans took out their flags from



Fountain

Photo OTG

the cupboards where they had hidden them sixteen years earlier. The small Republic, having learned from experience, asked the Helvetian Confederation to adopt it. Geneva became its twenty-second and next-to-last canton in 1815.

A Swiss canton maintains a great deal of freedom and sovereignty. Each of the twenty-three members of the, at times, turbulent big family had its quite distinct character. Geneva kept its own, and thrived. With no more outside dangers, the ramparts could be demolished, as from 1850, giving the city breathing room.

Thinking also benefited, and a whole group of great men emerged in all fields. Here we shall mention only one: Henry Dunant.

This fairly unfortunate businessman came across the battlefield in Solferino just after the battle. He saw and heard the wounded and

dying whom no-one was helping. Haunted by this sight, he returned to Geneva and wrote his immediately successful one-hundred-and-fifty-page "A Memory of Solferino" proposing the creation of relief societies for the wounded.

On 9 February 1863, the Public Utility Society, presided by Gustave Moynier, appointed a five-member commission which became the "International Committee" and organized a first "International Conference", attended by thirty-six participants, from 26 to 29 October 1863. The creation of national committees was approved and the use of white armbands with a red cross was adopted for volunteer nurses. On 22 August 1864, twelve countries signed the "Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field", giving birth to the "Geneva Convention".

Jean-Claude Mayor

International Geneva

Seven years later, America and Britain chose Geneva to settle their dispute regarding the Alabama. This arbitration, agreed to by the two parties, was the first of its kind at the international level. International arbitration prevailed over military confrontation, and the hospitality of Geneva and the Swiss neutrality and mediation efforts contributed to this diplomatic success. Many people claim this event affirmed Geneva's international role. International arbitration subsequently became frequent at the end of Lake Geneva. Geneva has indeed been quite fortunate as it became an international capital primarily because foreigners so chose. Throughout the XIXth century and at the beginning of the XXth, Geneva also welcomed many political refugees, the most famous one being Lenin who stayed here from 1903 to 1905 and again in 1908.

Geneva was designated as the headquarters of the League of Nations and of the International Labour Office (ILO) in 1919, marking its beginning as a city host to international organizations. In 1936, when the Palais des Nations was inaugurated, the international situation had, however, already seriously deteriorated. The much-vaunted "spirit of Geneva" which had brought the enemies of the 1914-1918 war to sit down at the same table was fading into oblivion, in particular ever since Germany had left the organization in 1933.

In the aftermath of the second world war, Geneva was granted the headquarters of some fifteen other universal or regional international organizations, some of which belong to the United Nations system and others are independent. Examples include WHO, WIPO, UNHCR, IOM, the Conference on Disarmament and GATT which became the WTO on 1 January 1995. CERN deserves mention as an outstanding research centre, breeding-ground for Nobel prizes and also the biggest employer among the international organizations in Geneva. We should of course also mention the ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, IATA, the Inter-Parliamentary Union as well as some 160 non-governmental organizations, the famous NGOs which are the heeded spokesmen of civilian society.

Whenever a war breaks out anywhere in the world or a disaster strikes a population, looks instinctively now turn to Geneva, hub of negotiation, cooperation, good offices, freedom and peace. Geneva, an international diplomatic cross-roads, is the biggest conference centre in the world with, on average, more than twenty meetings and special sessions a day, bringing together more than 100,000 delegates per year.

Open to the world is tantamount to open to new ideas. Geneva masters avant-garde technologies and welcomes many (national and multinational) enterprises specialized in power electronics, fine chemistry and telecommunications. Telecom has again just attracted the world's attention to Geneva, and the concept at the origin of the Internet network was developed at CERN. This open-mindedness will keep its real meaning in the future, however, only if it is put, above all, at the service of the peoples of all continents.

(With the kind collaboration of Jérôme Koechlin).

The World of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent

Historical background of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The history of humanity is also the history of war and its evils, customs and rules for combat, such as the prohibition to poison the adversary's water source and the requirement to spare women and children. These desires were, however, only occasionally applied.

XVIIIth and XIXth centuries

Changing mentalities and events such as the proclamation of Human Rights gave rise to a legal and humanistic literature in Europe. One of the most important persons of the period, the heroine, Florence Nightingale, came to light during the Crimean War in 1854. Her example was present in the minds of all when the Italian wars broke out. The times were propitious for the birth of the Red Cross.

1859 Solferino: On the battlefield, Henry Dunant, deeply distressed by what he saw, assisted all the wounded, without distinction of nationality. "We are all brothers". On his return to Switzerland, he published "A Memory of Solferino" which met with immediate success. It contained two basic ideas:

- a) relief societies had to be established in all the countries of Europe to help the wounded in times of war, with no distinction of nationality.
- b) war customs, i.e. the rules for combat, had to be codified and internationalized.

1863 "International Committee for the relief of military wounded" founded in Geneva on 9 February by Dr. L. Appia, General G.H. Dufour, Henry Dunant, Dr. Th. Maunoir and G. Moynier. This Committee, which became the "International Committee of the Red Cross" (ICRC) in 1876, convoked an **International Conference** (sixteen governments and four private organizations, including the ICRC) in October. The distinctive sign of a red cross on a white ground was adopted, and the first Societies were subsequently created.

1864 Geneva Convention for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field which inaugurated international humanitarian law was signed by twelve States. The Red Cross got under way.

- 1867 First International Conference of the Red Cross**, Geneva (nine governments, sixteen National Committees [National Societies], ICRC)
- 1899** Adaptation to maritime warfare of the principles of the Geneva Convention of 1864, previously applicable solely to the army (The Hague).
- 1906** Revision and development of the Geneva Convention of 1864.
- 1907** Adaptation to maritime warfare of the principles of the Geneva Convention of 1906 (Xth Convention of The Hague).
- 1914-1918**
First world war: strong development of the National Societies to assist the civilian and military victims.
- 1919** In reaction to the famine and disease devastating post-war Europe, the **League of Red Cross Societies** was created in Paris by the five National Red Cross Societies of France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan and the United States of America. The first objectives of the League were to improve health and coordinate disaster relief.
- 1928** The International Red Cross adopted Statutes which it revised in 1952 and again in 1986.
- 1929** Revision and development of the **Geneva Convention of 1906 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick in armed forces in the field**. Official recognition of the emblem of the red crescent (first used in 1876).
Adoption of the **Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war**. The ICRC then tried to conclude a Convention for the **protection of civilians**, but the Conference which was to adopt it could not be held before the second world war.
- 1939-1945**
Second world war: tens of millions of victims and, for the first time, a high proportion of civilian victims. The existing conventions needed to be revised and completed.
- 1949 Geneva Conventions**
- I° Convention for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick in armed forces in the field** (revision and development of the Geneva Convention of 1929)

- II° **Convention for the amelioration of the condition of wounded, sick and shipwrecked of armed forces at sea** (revision and development of the Xth Convention of The Hague of 1907)
- III° **Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war** (revision and development of the Geneva Convention of 1929)
- IV° **Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war.**

1965 Proclamation of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity, Universality.

No written fundamental charter had previously linked all the components of the Movement. As from 1986 they became the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

1969 As internal conflicts worsened, the XXIst International Conference in Istanbul adopted a resolution on the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts, which opened the way to the 1974-1977 Diplomatic Conference.

1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949:

Protocol I: **Protection of victims of international armed conflicts**

Protocol II: **Protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts**

1986 When revising the Statutes of the Movement, the XXVth International Conference adopted a new name: the **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**.

The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Proclaimed by the XXth International Conference in Vienna in 1965 and as adopted by the XXVth International Conference in Geneva in 1986

- Humanity** The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.
- Impartiality** It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.
- Neutrality** In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.
- Independence** The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.
- Voluntary service** It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.
- Unity** There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.
- Universality** The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

International Humanitarian Law

“Geneva Law”

applies:

- to international armed conflicts (the 1949 Geneva Conventions — see below — and Additional Protocol I of June 8, 1977)
- to non-international armed conflicts (Article 3 common to all the 1949 Conventions — see below — and Additional Protocol II of June 8, 1977)

and protects:

wounded and sick soldiers

Geneva Convention for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick in armed forces in the field of August 12, 1949 (Convention I)

the shipwrecked

Geneva Convention for the amelioration of the condition of wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea of August 12, 1949 (Convention II)

prisoners of war

Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war of August 12, 1949 (Convention III)

civilian persons

Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war of August 12, 1949 (Convention IV).

Components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

embody the work and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in more than 175 countries. National Societies act as auxiliaries to the public authorities of their own countries in the humanitarian field and provide a range of services including disaster relief, health and social programmes. During wartime, National Societies assist the affected civilian population and support the army medical services where appropriate.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Assembly: Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, **President**
Mr. Jacques Forster, **Permanent Vice-President**
Ms. Anne Petitpierre, **Vice-President**
Ms. Renée Guisan
Mr. Paolo Bernasconi
Ms. Liselotte Kraus-Gurny
Ms. Susy Bruschweiler
Mr. Jacques Moreillon
Mr. Rodolphe de Haller
Mr. Daniel Thürer
Mr. Jean-François Aubert
Mr. Georges-André Cuendet
Mr. Eric Roethlisberger
Mr. Ernst A. Brugger
Mr. Jean-Roger Bonvin
Mr. Jakob Nüesch
Mr. Peter Arbenz
Mr. André von Moos
Mr. Olivier Vodoz
Ms. Gabrielle Nanchen
Mr. Jean de Courten
Mr. Jean-Philippe Assal
Ms. Jacqueline Avril

Directorate: Mr. Paul Grossrieder, Director General
Mr. Jean-Daniel Tauxe, Director of Operations
Mr. Yves Sandoz, Director for International Law and Communication
Mr. Jacques Stroun, Director of Human Resources and Finance

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (The Federation)

works on the basis of the Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to inspire, facilitate and promote all humanitarian activities carried out by its member National Societies to improve the situation of the most vulnerable people. Founded in 1919, the Federation directs and coordinates international assistance of the Movement to victims of natural and technological disasters, to refugees and in health emergencies. It acts as the official representative of its member Societies in the international field. It promotes cooperation between National Societies, and works to strengthen their capacity to carry out effective disaster preparedness, health and social programmes.

Members of the Executive Council:

President	Dr. Astrid N. Heiberg (Norway)
Vice-Presidents	Mr. Ali Bandiare (Niger) Mr. Miguel Carmona Jiménez (Costa Rica) Ms. Janet Davidson (Canada) Dr. Mamdouh Gabr (Egypt) Dr. Mariapia Garavaglia (Italy) Dr. B. K. Goyal (India) Mr. Mario R. Nery (Philippines) Dr. Lyudmila G. Potravnova (Russian Federation) Mr. Franz E. Muheim (Switzerland, ex-officio)
Treasurer General	Mr. Bengt Bergman
Secretary General	Mr. George Weber
Member National Societies	Chile, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Jamaica, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Panama, Senegal, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates.

Together, all the above components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the "Movement") are guided by the same seven Fundamental Principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality. In the same manner, all Red Cross and Red Crescent activities have one central purpose: to help those who suffer without discrimination and thus contribute to peace in the world.

Organs of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The **International Conference** of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, meeting this year in Geneva at the invitation of the ICRC and the International Federation, comprises the delegations:

- of the recognized National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies
- of the International Committee of the Red Cross
- of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- of the States Parties to the Geneva Conventions.

The International Conference is the supreme deliberative body of the Movement. It is responsible for ensuring unity in the work of the National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation.

It normally meets every four years.

The following International Conferences have taken place since the foundation of the Red Cross:

I	Paris	1867	XIV	Brussels	1930
II	Berlin	1869	XV	Tokyo	1934
III	Geneva	1884	XVI	London	1938
IV	Karlsruhe	1887	XVII	Stockholm	1948
V	Rome	1892	XVIII	Toronto	1952
VI	Vienna	1897	XIX	New Dehli	1957
VII	St. Petersburg	1902	XX	Vienna	1965
VIII	London	1907	XXI	Istanbul	1969
IX	Washington	1912	XXII	Tehran	1973
X	Geneva	1921	XXIII	Bucharest	1977
XI	Geneva	1923	XXIV	Manila	1981
XII	Geneva	1925	XXV	Geneva	1986
XIII	The Hague	1928	XXVI	Geneva	1995

The **Council of Delegates** is composed of the delegations of:

- the recognized National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies
- the International Committee of the Red Cross
- the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The Council of Delegates is therefore the organ in which all the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement are united.

It in principle meets every two years.

The **Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent** is the trustee of the International Conference between two Conferences. It is composed of nine members:

- five members elected by the International Conference:
 - H.R.H. Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, **Chairman**
 - Mr. Tadateru Konoé (Japan), **Vice-Chairman**
 - Ms. Christina Magnuson (Sweden)
 - Gen. Georges Harrouk (Lebanon)
 - Dr. Mamoun Yousif Hamid (Sudan)
- two representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross:
 - Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President
 - Mr. Yves Sandoz, Director for International Law and Communication
- two representatives of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies:
 - Dr. Astrid N. Heiberg, President
 - Mr. George Weber, Secretary General

The duties of the Standing Commission include the establishment of the provisional agenda and the programme of the International Conference. It sees to the arrangements for the Conference.

The Standing Commission promotes harmony in the work of the Movement and, in this connection, coordination among its components. It encourages and furthers the implementation of resolutions of the Conference and examines matters which concern the Movement as a whole. It also makes arrangements for the Council of Delegates.

The Commission normally meets at least two times a year.

Provisional Agenda and Programme

Sunday, 31 October

Ceremony of the opening of the Conference*

4:30 p.m.

Monday, 1 November

First Plenary Meeting

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

- 1. Opening of the plenary meeting**
- 2. Election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen,
Secretary General, two Assistant Secretaries
General and other Officers of the Conference**
- 3. Establishment of the Conference's subsidiary
bodies**
 - 3.1 Plenary Commission
 - 3.2 Drafting Committee
- 4. Adoption of the agenda of the
Plenary Commission**
- 5. Information on the procedure for electing the
members of the Standing Commission, adopting
the Conference Declaration and Plan of Action,
and recording pledges**
- 6. Introduction of the Conference Declaration and of
the Plan of Action**

* A reception hosted by the Swiss and Geneva authorities and a show also open to the public will be held in the Geneva ARENA after the ceremony of the opening of the Conference. For more details, see page 39.

7. The Humanitarian Commitment:

- 7.1 Keynote address by the President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- 7.2 Keynote address by the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross
- 7.3 Keynote address by the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, Mrs. Louise Fréchette
- 7.4 Guest speakers:
 - World Health Organization: Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director General
 - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: Mrs. Mary Robinson, High Commissioner
 - UNICEF: Mrs. Carol Bellamy, Executive Director
 - World Food Programme: Mrs. Catherine Bertini, Executive Director

8. Presentation on the “People on War” survey

Workshops

From 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, 2 November

Plenary Commission

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

1. Report on the First Periodical Meeting on International Humanitarian Law
2. Report on the Centennial of the First International Peace Conference
3. Debate on the draft Plan of Action, Theme I:
“The Protection of victims of armed conflicts through respect of international humanitarian law”

Drafting Committee

Workshops

From 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 3 November

Plenary Commission

9:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

4. Debate on the draft Plan of Action, Theme II:

**“Humanitarian action in times of armed conflict
and other disasters”**

Drafting Committee

Revision of the draft Plan of Action, with an emphasis on Theme I

Workshops

From 5:00 p.m.

Plenary Commission

Thursday, 4 November

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

5. Debate on the draft Plan of Action, Theme III:

**“Strategic partnership to improve the lives of
vulnerable people”**

Drafting Committee

Revision of the draft Plan of Action, with an emphasis on Theme II

Workshops

From 5:00 p.m.

Friday, 5 November

Second Plenary Meeting 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
and 6:30 p.m.

9. Election of the members of the Standing Commission

10. Reports of the Plenary Commission

Drafting Committee 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Revision of the draft Plan of Action, with an emphasis on Theme III
Finalisation of the Declaration and Plan of Action

Workshops 2:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, 6 November

Final Plenary Meeting

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

11. Report on the workshops

12. Report of the Drafting Committee

13. Adoption of the Conference Declaration and Plan of Action

14. Adoption of other resolutions:

- Empress Shôken Fund
- 12th August Appeal
- Date and place of the 28th International Conference

15. Closing ceremony:

- Reading of the Conference Declaration
- Presentation of recorded pledges

Conference Workshops

Monday, 1st November

Volunteering 2000 - challenge for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in strengthening Civil society.

Organiser(s): International Federation, Sudanese Red Crescent; Swiss Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross

People on war: results of the world-wide consultation

Organiser(s): ICRC

Widowhood and armed conflict: challenges faced and strategies forward

Organiser(s): Australian Red Cross and ICRC, in collaboration with the Swedish Red Cross

Tuesday, 2 November

Working in partnership: Government support to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Organiser(s): British Red Cross and British Government (DFID)

The humanitarian challenge of small arms proliferation

Organiser(s): Norwegian Red Cross, Norwegian Government, Malian Red Cross and Malian Government

Wednesday, 3 November

Fight against AIDS in developing countries

Organiser(s): French Red Cross

Wednesday, 3 November

**Ensuring respect for International Humanitarian Law -
towards appropriate mechanisms**

Organiser(s): Swiss Government (DFAE) and German Red Cross

**The SIrUS project and reviewing
the legality of new weapons**

Organiser(s): ICRC, Australian Red Cross and Danish RC

Thursday, 4 November

Use and development of SPHERE standards

Organiser(s): Danish Red Cross and International Federation

Children affected by armed conflicts

Organiser(s): Canadian Government, Canadian Red Cross and
Sierra Leone Red Cross

Friday, 5 November

Effects of climate change on disaster responses

Organiser(s): International Federation

**Humanitarian action and Business:
common interests?**

Organiser(s): Belgian Government, Belgian Red Cross and Henry
Dunant Centre for humanitarian dialogue

Friday, 5 November

**Implementation of the Statute
of the International Criminal Court**

Organiser(s): Netherlands Red Cross and Yugoslav Red Cross

**Health Education and First Aid Training:
A basic arena for Red Cross and Red Crescent**

Organiser(s): French Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross and Nigerian Red Cross

Members of the Conference

- I. National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- II. International Committee of the Red Cross
- III. International Federation of Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies
- IV. States Parties to the Geneva Conventions

International Conference Centre, Geneva (CICG)

Address 15-17, rue de Varembé
CH-1202 Geneva
(P.O. Box 13, CH-1211 Geneva 20)

International Conference Secretariat Tel. 791 94 41-42
(Direct Lines 791...)

Delegates (Loud Speaker) Tel. 791 94 10-11

Infirmary Tel. 791 95 22

Conference Bureau

	Bureaux	Telephones
Chairman of the Conference	VIII	791 98 16
Chairman of the Standing Commission	J163-4	791 98 51-52
President of the ICRC	XI	791 97 14
President of the International Federation	XIII	791 98 48
Chairman of the Drafting Committee	XIV	791 98 64
Secretary General of the Conference	J151	791 98 03

Practical Information



Visas

All Conference participants who hold passports or travelling documents for which a visa is required are assured that a visa may be obtained from the Swiss diplomatic and consular representation in their country of residence.



Airport welcome

There will be a welcome and information desk for Conference participants arriving at Cointrin airport and transport to hotels.



Cars

Customs papers (triptyque, international carnet, etc.) are not necessary for cars. However proof of third party liability insurance is required. The driver must have a national or international driver's licence as well as a car permit of the country of immatriculation of his car. In the event of a breakdown, dial 140 "Secours routier".



Foreign currency

There are no restrictions on the import, exchange and export of Swiss and foreign means of payment.



Accommodation

Hotel reservations were made based on the form returned. During the Conference an information service for delegates will be set up in the hall of the CICG. A single room (with shower or bath, breakfast) in a three-star hotel costs between 90.– and 150.– francs per day, a double room between 110.– and 197.– francs.



Public transport

Bus 5 goes from downtown (Place Bel-Air) to the railway station (Cornavin) and the CICG (Vermont stop). Bus 8 runs from Rive (left bank) via the railway station to the CICG. Bus 10 and the train go from Cointrin airport to the railway station

During the Conference a special bus service will be provided between the main hotels and the CICG. The schedule will be adapted to the sessions. Further details will be given to participants on registration.



Parking

Private cars may not be parked in front of the main entrance of the CICG. Conference participants may use the pay underground public parking at rue de Varembeé near the CICG.



Registration

When participants arrive in Geneva they are kindly requested to register in the hall of the CICG starting at Wednesday, 20 October 1999 at 9 a.m.



Admission to meetings

Every participant will receive a name tag when he/she registers at the CICG. Only persons wearing this tag will have access to the meeting rooms.



Accompanying persons

When registering, participants are requested to indicate on their registration form if they are accompanied by persons who are not part of a delegation. The information desk will be at their disposal at the CICG (information about town visits, shows, and other activities).



Pigeon-holes

Every delegation will have a pigeon-hole – in the entrance hall of the CICG (registration desk) – where documents and messages will be put during the conference.



Restaurants

During the lunch break the CICG restaurant will serve meals for participants (self-service or served). A list of restaurants in Geneva will be distributed to delegates.



Post and telecommunications

There is a post office at the CICG. The telecommunications centre which is situated in the basement offers telex, telefax as well as numerous telephone booths.

The dial code for Geneva is 22. To call from abroad dial 41 22... For calls from other Swiss locations, dial 022... For local calls dial the person's phone number without the dial code. Phones at the CICG have four-digit numbers for internal calls. To call from outside the CICG dial 791... plus the internal extension number. To reach a delegate, dial 791 94 41 or 42 and leave a message which will be put in his pigeon-hole. To call abroad, dial 00...



Main places of interest in Geneva

- International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum.
- Geneva Old Town with St. Pierre Cathedral, City Hall and Bourg-de-Four Square
- Bastions Park with Reformation Memorial Wall and University
- Geneva Art and History Museum
- Lake Geneva with fountain, Rousseau Island and parks on both lakeshores
- Palais des Nations

The Conference information desk and the Geneva Tourist Office are at the disposal of participants for further information.



Shopping

The main shopping areas are: rue du Mont-Blanc, rue du Rhône, "Rues Basses" (rue de la Confédération, rue du Marché, rue de la Croix-d'Or, rue de Rive).

Antiques shops are mainly to be found in the Old Town. Opening hours of shops are: Monday 13:30 to 18:30, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30 to 18:30, Thursday 8:30 to **20:00**, Saturday 8:30 to 17:00.



Travel agency

There will be a travel service for participants in the hall of the CICG (tickets and plane reservations, individual excursions, tourist information, etc.).



Climate

During November the temperature in Geneva varies between -12 and 3 degrees centigrade. It is advisable to bring a coat and umbrella.



Health

An infirmary with a first aid post will be set up at the CICG – phone 791 95 22 – by the Swiss Red Cross and the Geneva Section of the Samaritains. It will also have a list of doctors, hospitals and chemists' shop.



Press

A press and information desk will be at the disposal of the media (newspapers, television, radio) at the CICG starting on 1 November.



Opening ceremony and show

The various events organized for the opening of the Conference will take place on **Sunday 31 October**, as follows:

Opening ceremony at the CICG 4:30 p.m.

Participants will be taken by bus to the Arena concert hall 6:00 p.m.

Reception offered by the Swiss Federal Council, the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva and the Administrative Council of the City of Geneva at the Arena 6:30 p.m.

Show at the Arena, entitled "The Power of Humanity" and featuring world-famous artists. This event, specially staged for the occasion, will be open to the public and broadcast live on TV 8:15 p.m.

Free tickets are limited to maximum 5 per delegation.

Useful addresses

International Conference Centre, Geneva (CICG)	see page 35
Conference Secretariat	see page 35
International Committee of the Red Cross	19, av. de la Paix CH-1202 Geneva Tel. 734 60 01 Telex 414 226 CCR CH Telegram INTERCROIX-ROUGE GENEVE Fax 733 20 57
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	17, chemin des Crêts (CH-1209 Geneva/Petit-Saconnex) P.O. Box 372 CH-1211 Geneva 19 Tel. 730 42 22 Telex 412 133 LRC CH Telegram LICROSS GENEVE Fax 733 03 95
International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum	17, av. de la Paix CH-1202 Geneva Tel. 748 95 25 Fax 748 95 28
Swiss Red Cross National Headquarters	Rainmattstrasse 10 P.O. Box, CH-3001 Bern Tel. (0)31 387 71 11 Telex 911 102 CRSB CH Telegram CROIXROUGE SUISSE BERN Fax (0) 31 387 71 22
Geneva Section of the Swiss Red Cross	9, route des Acacias CH-1227 Geneva Tel. 342 40 50
Henry Dunant Center for humanitarian dialogue	114, rue de Lausanne CH-1202 Geneva Tel. 731 53 10 Fax 732 02 33

Permanent Missions to the Office of the United Nations, Geneva, and consulates	<hr/> addresses may be requested from the information desk <hr/>
State Chancellery: Protocol and Information Office	2, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville Tel. 319 21 11
Police Principal commissariat	17-19, boulevard Carl-Vogt Tel. 427 81 11 Tel. 117 (emergencies)
Lost and Found	7, rue des Glacis-de-Rive Tel. 787 60 00
Tourism	Geneva Tourist Office 10, route de l'Aéroport P.O. Box CH-1215 Geneva 15 Tel. 909 70 00 Fax 929 70 11 Tourist Information Rue du Mont-Blanc 3 Tel. 909 70 00
Air transport	Swissair reservations Tel. 0848 800 600 information Tel. 157 15 00 Fax 799 31 38
Railways	CFF information and reservations Tel. 157 22 22
Taxis	Tel. 320 20 20 320 22 02 331 41 33
Car hire	Avis Tel. 731 90 00 Budget Tel. 900 24 00 Europcar Tel. 798 11 10 Hertz Tel. 0848 822 020
Road assistance	Tel. 140
Health	Cantonal Hospital Tel. 372 33 11

City map of Geneva

Map reproduced with the authorization of the Geneva Cadastre Service of 22 September 1999.

HOTELS (selection)

1. Astoria Place Cornavin 6
Tel. 732 10 25 - Fax 731 76 90
 2. Auteuil Rue de Lausanne 33
Tel. 731 44 00 - Fax 738 74 92
 3. Bergues Quai des Bergues 33
Tel. 908 70 00
 4. Berne Rue de Berne 26
Tel. 715 46 00 - Fax 731 11 73
 5. Bernina Place Cornavin 22
Tel. 908 49 50 - Fax 908 49 51
 6. Chantilly Rue de la Navigation 27
Tel. 731 11 07 - Fax 738 85 27
 7. Cristal Rue Pradier 4
Tel. 731 34 00 - Fax 731 70 78
 8. Drake Rue Rothschild 32
Tel. 731 67 50 - Fax 738 00 07
 9. Eden Rue de Lausanne 135
Tel. 716 37 00 - Fax 731 52 60
 10. Excelsior Rue Rousseau 34
Tel. 732 09 45 - Fax 738 43 69
 11. Forum Park (ex Penta) Avenue Louis-Casali 75-77
Tel. 710 30 00 - Fax 710 31 00
 12. Grand Pré Rue du Grand-Pré 35
Tel. 918 11 11 - Fax 734 76 91
 13. Holiday Inn Voie-de-Moëns 26
Tel. 791 00 11 - Fax 798 92 73
 14. Intercontinental Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 7-9
Tel. 919 39 39 - Fax 919 38 38
 15. La Réserve Avenue du Jura - F-01210 Ferney-Voltaire
Tel. (33) 450 40 30 20 - Fax (33) 450 40 30 00
 16. Longchamp Rue Butini 7
Tel. 731 92 28 - Fax 738 00 07
 17. Moderne Rue de Berne 1
Tel. 732 81 00 - Fax 738 26 58
 18. Mon Repos Rue de Lausanne 131-133
Tel. 909 39 09 - Fax 909 39 93
 19. Montbrillant Rue Montbrillant 2
Tel. 733 77 84 - Fax 733 25 11
 20. Nations Rue du Grand-Pré 62
Tel. 734 30 03 - Fax 734 38 84
 21. Ramada Rue de Zürich 19
Tel. 909 90 00 - Fax 909 90 01
 22. Rex Avenue Wendt 44
Tel. 345 71 50 - Fax 344 04 20
 23. Royal Rue de Lausanne 41
Tel. 906 13 57 - Fax 738 85 57
 24. Savoy Place Cornavin 8
Tel. 906 47 00 - Fax 906 47 90
 25. Strasbourg-Univers Rue Pradier 10
Tel. 732 25 62 - Fax 738 42 08
 26. Suisse Place Cornavin 10
Tel. 732 66 30 - Fax 732 62 39
 27. Tourelles (des) Bd James-Fazy 2
Tel. 732 44 23 - Fax 732 76 20
 28. Warwick Rue de Lausanne 14
Tel. 731 62 50 - Fax 738 99 35
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